In haste. Final version to come.
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DRAFT

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Memo: MILTEER INTERVIEW AND HUAC HEARINGS ON KU KLUX KLAN (1966)

Warren Commission Document 1347, pp. 119-26, contains the FBI account of a Miami police informant's advance warning, on November 9, 1963 of a plot to kill President Kennedy, and also Martin Luther King. According to the informant, a (Joseph Adams Milteer) "suggested one JACK BROWN of Chattanooga, Tennessee, as the man who could do the job" (CD.1347.119). Page 121 of this memo is still withheld, but CD 1347's index reveals the following names, in the context of what is evidently the September 15, 1963 bombing of a Birmingham Baptist Church, in which four girls were killed (cf. Harold Weisberg, Frame-Up, p. 478):

Association of South Carolina Klans
Baptist Church, Birmingham, Alabama
Bolen, A.O.
Hendricks, Jack
Kennedy, Robert
King, Martin Luther
Knights of Ku Klux Klan
Mims, Belton
Ulmer, Will
United Klans of America, Inc.
Wade Hampton Hotel, Columbia, S.C.

The 1966 HUAC Hearings into the Ku Klux Klan (Activities of Ku Klux Klans Organizations in the United States, 89th Cong., 2nd Sess.) throw some light on these names, and suggest a conspiratorial nexus with possible links not only to the Birmingham bombing but to the killings of John F. Kennedy, Lemuel Penn, Viola Liuzzo, Norman Lincoln Rockwell and above all Martin

Luther King. It is perhaps relevant that investigations for these hearings began January 1, 1964, shortly after the Kennedy assassination, with an investigator seconded from Army CIC rather than the FBI (p. 1546).

Jack Brown of Chattanooga is identified as leader of the Dixie Klans of America, Inc.; he died a few days before the opening of the HUAC Hearings in October 1965.(pp. 1543-44). The Dixie Klans, which operated in Tennessee, Alabama, and Georgia, were nominally part of the National Association of Klans headed by James R. Venable, along with the Association of South Carolina Klans headed by A.O. Bolen and Cecil (Belton, Jr.) Mims (all three names in suppressed CD 1347.121). However Venable testified (p. 3943) that after Robert Shelton was expelled from the United Klans of America, Inc., alias the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (CD.1347.121), he may have run the Dixie Klans of the "Brown brothers" which were also connected with J.B. Stoner of the National States Rights Party. Venable accused Shelton's Klans of involvement in the Lemuel Penn and Viola Liuzzo murders (p. 3949), but may not have been disinterested. A police undercover operative testified that the indicted killers of Lemuel Penn (John Howard Sims and Cecil Myers, p. 3604) were members of an elite "degree team for Mr. Venable" (p. 3388). In 1963 Venable and Stoner were both involved in a series of Klan meetings (April 6-7, Biloxi; May 26 and August 3-4, Dinkler Hotel, Atlanta; Venable's home town of Stone Mountain, Ga., August 31; Atlanta, November 30; p. 3660-61); these climaxed with the chartering of Venable's National Knights in November 1963 (pp. 3956-58).

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(p.3693)

Jack Brown had a contact in Ohio called Mrs. E Witte, Ohio organizer for Stoner's NSRP (p. 3624) and Venable's National Klans to a Klan disciple about switching allegiance who reported after talking to Brown that the "Dixie Knights" were "more masculine or more for violence than the KKKK /United Klans/ and they get a lot done" (p. 3404). Daniel Wagner, a member of the Ohio Klan's "Black Shirts" security guards (p. 3383), wrote after being arrested at a May 1965 Klan-NSRP-Minuteman rally (pp. 3641, 3647) that Mrs. Witte had tried to recruit him as a sniper to kill Martin Luther King. According to his letter

> Mrs. Witte...told me that the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan had hired a gunman for $25,000 to assassinate Martin Luther King. (p. 3402)

After this gunman backed down, Mrs. Witte reported engaged Wagner to shoot Martin Luther King at Antioch College in June 1965, but then Mrs. Witte backed down.

Another of Mrs. Witte's disciples in the Ohio Klan-NSRP was an ex-member of Rockwell's American Nazi Party called Richard Hanna. Hanna confirmed Mrs. Witte's contacts with Brown's Dixie Knights (p.3634), and added that Mrs. Witte once said, "I would have killed President Kennedy if I had a chance (do.). With respect to the conspiracy to kill Martin Luther King, he testified that two guns, an MP-40 submachine gun and an M-1 Garand rifle, were shipped into Cincinnati (p. 3635). Sgt. Dan Swartz, head of the Columbus, Ohio, police intelligence unit, testified further that Dan Wagner had dynamite in his car from Stone Mountain, Ga., (Venable's home town, p. 3365). Swartz's undercover agent with Mrs. Witte's Klan, Booby Stephens, attended a Klan rally at Stone Mountain under Venable (p. 3372).

This published testimony in 1966 would appear to confirm the existence of a contract to kill Martin Luther King for $25,000 which James Earl Ray's brother Gerry told Harold Weisberg about in 1968 (Weisberg, Frame-Up, pp. 310, 322). That an agent in this 1965 conspiracy was the Ohio organizer for Stoner's NSRP strengthens the apparent case for a conflict-of-interest on the part of J.B. Stoner, who became James Earl Ray's attorney, was informed by the Ray's of the $25,000 offer, and apparently suppressed testimony to this effect (ibid.). It is also striking that advance notice of a conspiracy to kill King reached the federal authorities from Wagner just as did advance notice from Milteer of a conspiracy to kill Kennedy, that both the Milteer and the Wagner information involved Jack Brown of the Dixie Klans under Venable and Stoner, and that apparently no federal punitive action was taken in either case. The HUAC testimony would appear to strengthen Ray's case for a new trial.

The Stoner-Venable-Brown nexus would appear to have links to other acts of violence. Charles Cagle, an NSRP member, was indicted by the Justice Department under Attorney-General Robert Kennedy for the September 1963 bombing in Birmingham (NYT, October 1, 1963; cf. Oct. 2, 9, 10). In 1961 the NSRP National Organizer was Roy Frankhouser (p. 3342), who went on to be an organizer for the Minutemen of Robert de Pugh (an NSRP speaker in 1962) and of Rockwell's Nazi Party. In September 1961 Frankhouser attended a Klan rally in Atlanta with Venable; he stayed with a George Bright who had been accused of the 1958 bombing of an Atlanta Jewish temple (Atlanta Journal,

September 5, 1961; reprinted in HUAC, p. 3345). Under questioning from HUAC investigator Manuel, Venable denied knowledge of the 1958 Atlanta bombing, of having heard the nickname "'Bomber' Stoner", or whether Stoner had been involved in the 1963 Birmingham bombing.(pp. 3352-53).

In August 1963 Roy Frankhouser was engaged on a Nazi "Hate Hike" with his friend John Patler (p. 3350), whose American National Party was praised by Stoner's NSRP (Group Research). By 1965 Frankhouser, still a Nazi, had turned against Rockwell, whom he called "vicious" and "dictatorial" (p. 3352). Later John Patler would be convicted of the assassination of Rockwell; those who doubt that Patler was the true assassin argue that the killers were close to Patler.

On October 21, 1965, the day he was named in the HUAC Hearings, Frankhouser was "shot at" in his residence a la General Walker (p. 3353). Two weeks later, on November 5, his good friend Dan Burros of the Nazi Party, whose name was found in Oswald's notebook (16 H 57) "committed suicide in Frankhouser's apartment" (p. 3354). Peter Noyes book on the asssination of Robert Kennedy implicates west coast members of the Minutemen organization, for which Frankhouser was Pennsylvania co-ordinator (Legacy of Doubt, pp. 197-206). In circumstances as yet unexplained, a San Diego Minuteman was arrested in connection with that killing(Special Unit Senator, p. 151).

Stoner and the Teamsters: A Robert Gentry of Jacksonville (whose attorney was Stoner) admitted to the HUAC Committee that he was in Birmingham on September 15, 1963 (p. 3669), the date of the bombing in which the NSRP was allegedly implicated. Gentry was one of three Klansmen and deputy sheriffs in St. Johns Co. whose Klavern met in the county jail; allegedly "J.B. Stoner...was a hidden member". The three men were indicted for violating the civil rights of Donald Godfrey, a black teamster in September 1963 and later (p. 3672). One of the

Ends with p. 5. I believe it is relevant to who may have killed King. But not to the present Ray defense. The number of such plots is always great - against all controversial figures. That existence is not proof that Ray did not receive justice or that he is innocent.